

**CLAIMS:**

What is claimed is:

1. A method for managing an electronic document within  
5 a computer network, the method comprising:
  - creating a customer profile for a user;
  - creating an electronic receipt containing information about a transaction executed by the user at a point of sale; and
- 10 sending the electronic receipt from the point of sale to a database, wherein the database is designated by the customer profile.
2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:
  - 15 receiving search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the database;
  - initiating a receipt search object which retrieves the specified electronic receipt from the database,
- 20 according to the search parameters; and
  - downloading a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.
- 25 3. The method according to claim 1, wherein the customer profile comprises at least one of the following:
  - customer name;
  - password;
  - credit card numbers;
- 30
  - client machine addresses;
  - tax deduction information;
  - purchase classification; and

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personal financial manager applications used on a client machine.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
5 database containing the electronic receipts is on a  
credit card company server.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
database containing the electronic receipts is on a  
10 manufacturer server.

6. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
database containing the electronic receipts is on a  
merchant cash receipt server.

15 7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
database containing the electronic receipts is on a  
clearing house server.

20 8. The method according to claim 1, wherein the  
electronic receipt further comprises at least one of the  
following:

customer name;  
customer password;  
25 item type;  
brand name;  
date of purchase;  
purchase price;  
method of purchase;  
30 credit card number;  
tax deduction status; and  
warranty information.

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9. The method according to claim 1, wherein the search parameters comprise at least one of the following:

customer name;

5 customer password;

item type;

brand name;

approximate date of purchase;

approximate purchase price;

10 method of purchase;

credit card number; and

tax deduction status.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein merchants

15 and manufacturers may use the electronic receipts to send product information to customers, the product information comprising at least one of the following:

extended warranties;

product upgrades;

20 product recalls;

product safety updates;

identical items available for exchange; and

alternative and substitute items available for exchange.

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11. The method according to claim 1, wherein the electronic receipts are encrypted, preventing the information content of the electronic receipts from being modified.

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12. The method according to claim 1, wherein the client machine may be at least one of the following:

TELETYPE  
555-5555-5555

personal computer;  
laptop computer;  
personal digital assistant;  
mobile telephone; and  
5 palm computer.

13. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
initiating the receipt search object to delete an  
electronic receipt from the database, according to the  
10 search parameter.
14. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:  
initiating the receipt search object to  
automatically delete an electronic receipt from the  
15 database at a predefined time.
15. A computer program product in a computer readable  
medium for use in a data processing system, for managing  
an electronic document within a computer network, the  
20 computer program product comprising:  
instructions for creating a customer profile for a  
user;  
instructions for creating an electronic receipt  
containing information about a transaction executed by  
25 the user at a point of sale; and  
instructions for sending the electronic receipt from  
the point of sale to a database, wherein the database is  
designated by the customer profile.
- 30 16. The computer program product according to claim 15,  
further comprising:

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instructions for receiving search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the database;

5 instructions for initiating a receipt search object which retrieves the specified electronic receipt from the database, according to the search parameters; and

instructions for downloading a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.

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17. The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the customer profile comprises at least one of the following:

customer name;

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password;

credit card numbers;

client machine addresses;

tax deduction information;

purchase classification; and

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personal financial manager applications used on a client machine.

18. The computer program product according to claim 15, wherein the electronic receipt further comprises at least 25 one of the following:

customer name;

customer password;

item type;

brand name;

30

date of purchase;

purchase price;

method of purchase;

Computer Program Product

credit card number;  
tax deduction status; and  
warranty information.

5 19. The computer program product according to claim 15,  
wherein the search parameters comprise at least one of  
the following:

customer name;  
customer password;  
10 item type;  
brand name;  
approximate date of purchase;  
approximate purchase price;  
method of purchase;  
15 credit card number; and  
tax deduction status.

20. The computer program product according to claim 15,  
wherein the electronic receipts are encrypted, preventing  
20 the information content of the electronic receipts from  
being modified.

21. The computer program product according to claim 15,  
further comprising: instructions for initiating the  
25 receipt search object to delete an electronic receipt  
from the database, according to the search parameter.

22. The computer program product according to claim 15,  
further comprising:

30 instructions for initiating the receipt search  
object to automatically delete an electronic receipt from  
the database at a predefined time.

23. A system for managing an electronic document within a computer network, the system comprising:

- 5 a storage component which contains a customer profile for a user;
- 10 a processing component which creates an electronic receipt containing information about a transaction executed by the user at a point of sale; and
- 15 a communication component which sends the electronic receipt from the point of sale to a database, wherein the database is designated by the customer profile.

24. The system according to claim 23, further comprising:

- 15 an input component which receives search parameters from the user, wherein the search parameters specify an electronic receipt within the database;
- 20 a processing component which initiates a receipt search object to retrieve the specified electronic receipt from the database, according to the search parameters; and
- 25 a downloading component which downloads a copy of the retrieved electronic receipt to a client machine designated by the customer profile.